

Declaration of 'Simlipahl' as Biosphere Reserve

3301. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Simlipahl' has a distinctly unique eco-system in the country;

(b) whether the Government have received representations for declaration of 'Simlipahl' in Orissa as a Biosphere reserve; and

(c) the pre-requisites for declaration of an area as a Biosphere reserve vis-a-vis the merit of the representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The pre-requisites for declaration of an area as a Biosphere Reserve are representativeness, naturalness, diversity and effectiveness as a conservation unit. Based on the merit of the representations and other considerations, the proposal was examined and it has been decided not to declare the area as a Biosphere Reserve at this stage. The area is already under legal protection as a National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary and is designated as a Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger.

Revision of the Existing Lists of SCs/STs

3302. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) the number of proposal, State-wise, received by the Union Government for revision of the existing lists of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in introducing a bill for giving effect to proposed revision; and

(c) whether the proposed revisions will be given effect to during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) The details of proposals received cannot be disclosed in the public interest.

Any amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be made only through an Act of Parliament as laid down in Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution. No time schedule can be indicated in this regard.

Mosque and other Muslim Shrines in the Country

3303. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names and location of mosques and other muslim shrines in the country which have been declared as historical monuments of national importance and taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) the names and location of other mosques and shrines, if any, which have not so far been declared but which are maintained and/or conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India or by the State Governments/ Union Territories Administrations

under the supervision of the Archaeological Survey of India;

(c) the names of mosques and shrines included in (a) & (b) above which are in use for religious service and or instruction, throughout the year or for particular periods during the year; and

(d) the names of mosques included in (a) & (b) above which were used by the local Muslim community for Taraviah prayers during Ramzan, 1990 and Ramzan, 1991 ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Integrated Tribal Development Projects

3304. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Integrated Tribal Development Projects/Agencies (ITDPs/ITDAs) have succeeded in improving the quality of life of Tribals;

(b) the number of tribal families who have been able to cross the poverty line through aforesaid projects agencies so far;

(c) the methods through which the improvement in the standard of living is assessed; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent by ITDPs/ITDAs till the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation indicate that the percentage of persons below poverty line for STs has come down from 72.43 in 1977-78 to 58.40 in 1983-84 in rural areas and from 52.55 in 1977-78 to 39.90 in 1983-84 in urban areas.

(c) The improvement in the standard of living is assessed through various evaluation studies conducted by Tribal Research Institutes, Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission and other research organisations. Guidelines have also been issued to the States/UTs to undertake concurrent evaluation of tribal beneficiaries through spot checks to be carried out by the State Government Departments' Officers visiting the field.

(d) The amount of SCA sanctioned/released for ITDPs/ITDAs till the end of Seventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 1,296.73 crores.

[Translation]

Facilities to Handicapped Persons

3305. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether facilities like free/concessional travelling and Medical facilities, employment and self employment etc. are provided to the handicapped persons and the persons having spinal injuries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Each category of handicapped persons has been divided into four